

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Chile

Post: Santiago

Chile recognized the United States as negligible risk for BSE

Report Categories:

Livestock and Products

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Report Highlights:

Chile recognizes the United States as a country of negligible risk for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) and by doing it, lining up with the World Organization of Animal Health (OIE). This new classification opens the possibility of negotiating the access for new U.S. products to Chile, specifically live cattle.

General Information:

In December 2003, Chile restricted imports of U.S. cattle because of BSE, despite its long standing commitment to adhere fully to OIE guidelines. APHIS has requested access since 2007 and has proposed various protocols to Chile's Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG) to remove this import restriction with no luck. In late August 2015 and as a final stage of the long standing negotiations, Chile visited the United States and performed an inspection visit to verify the dossier given to the OIE by the United States that led to the classification as negligible risk. As a result of the visit, on March 30, 2015, by resolution 2348/2015 Chile finally recognized the new status.

As a result of this new classification, USDA is working on negotiating new languages for the certification of bovine meat and bovine byproducts lifting the restrictions imposed by the former status. This negotiation won't open new markets for U.S. products but will facilitate trade.

USDA and SAG are also working on a protocol for trade in both directions with live cattle. The United States will become the first country to export live cattle to Chile since 2003. The market for the United States is estimated to reach 20 thousand animals a year, valued on \$24 million.